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MISCELLANEOUS.  
FINANCE AND CURRENCY.  
Under the above heading the New York Tribune, has some pertinent remarks which we present to our readers that they may see for themselves the evidences of the financial storm which is now brewing. That paper says:  
"As to the prospective action of Congress on finance and currency, our guess may prove quite erroneous; but it is our impression that the sum total of the doings of this session will be just about nothing at all. We judge that there is a majority in the House who would be gratified if further inflation and debasement could be covered by any decent pretext; we trust that there is no majority in either House ready to venture upon it without a pretext. The Senate, we hope, would not vote to inflate whether with or without a pretext, but it has yet not broken ground for prompt resumption; and does not allow us to forget that it originated the provision of last session whereby the Secretary of the Treasury was forbidden to make good the Government's greenback promises to pay. Until further developments, we shall presume that proximity of the 4th of March and urgency of other business will preclude decisive action on the currency at this session. Meantime, Secretary McCulloch will go on with his regular withdrawal and destruction of greenbacks at the rate of \$4,000,000 per month. That is not much, but it is better than nothing.  
"As to the various projects which look to the wholesale withdrawal of the notes of our national banks and their replacement by greenbacks, we regard them all with complacency, if not with positive favor; but we insist that resumption shall be the first step. Let us have no more systematic national falsehood. When our greenbacks were first authorized and issued, it was a distinct understanding that they should be convertible into interest-bearing bonds, at the option of the holder, and that they should be redeemed in coin at the earliest possible day. They were issued as a gigantic forced loan, in satisfaction of our imperiled Union's urgent imperious needs. The expedient scarcely differed, little in principle from, but was an improvement upon, that debasement of the coinage so familiar to the despotic rulers of the middle ages. Its justification is found in the national peril wherein it originated, and which it powerfully aided to overcome. But, though a weary army may be marched five miles further on the stimulus of a gill of whiskey per man, it by no means follows that its efficiency would be increased by keeping it drunk evermore. It is high time that we began to taper off for, though getting sober is a less delicious experience than that of getting drunk, it is decidedly more wholesome, and the lapse of time renders it indispensable.  
"When the greenbacks were first issued, they were tacitly regarded as promises to pay as soon as we could—so soon, at least, as the stress of war should have passed away. Now that we have peace and are paying off the national debt rather than incurring it, let us resume payment; at all events, let us not multiply falsehoods which have not even the doubtful merit of deceiving. Only let the Treasury resume payment in coin, and then if there be an equitable mode of replacing our bank note currency by greenbacks, we have not the slightest objection.

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once, will never do any. Boys, if you would be honored men, take care of your conduct now.  
"Where is the east?" asked a teacher of a very little scholar.  
"Where the morning comes from," was the prompt and pleasant answer.

SENATOR PARSONS'S SPEECH.  
Senator Parsons, of Alabama, delivered an address before the State Legislature on Friday last, in accordance with a joint resolution of that body.  
The Montgomery Advertiser says: The speech was a thorough dissection of the constitutional amendment. It was shown that one effect of this measure would be to lay the constitutional foundation to authorize Congressional interference in the internal affairs of the States to reduce the representation of Alabama from six to three members of Congress, and to operate in like manner on all the other States; to elevate the inferior at the expense of the more intelligent and superior race; and to produce a war of races, and re-enact the horrors of San Domingo in the South.  
Much had been said about the Radical enabling act or territorialization. This and its effects may pass away, but the constitutional amendment, with its obnoxious sections would be engrafted on the Constitution and would bind us and our children forever. It was concocted in secret, and the gravest consequences depend upon the action of the South. It had been said that the amendment once accepted, the disabilities imposed by the third section would be removed. Was a political party ever known to exist that pardoned and admitted to his place, a member of any legislative body, who it is known would turn and vote against the party that admitted him? The third section of the amendment, obnoxious as it is, cannot be compared in its consequences to the first and fifth.  
The enabling act, would not, as is supposed, reduce us to a territorial condition, but would admit the African with a few whites, to the privilege of suffrage, reorganize the governments of the States and elevate the colored to the degradation of the white race. In this case Congress would be accomplished, whereas in the case of the amendment, the States themselves would be the instruments of their own disfranchisement and degradation.  
Senator Parsons did not believe the amendment affected the result of the Northern elections; it and kindred measures was not discussed in the papers of that section. He attributed that result more to the fact that the public mind had not time to react from the passions and excitement engendered by the war. The great desire of the President is to sustain himself, on the Constitution, until there should be a returning sense of justice in the minds of the Northern people; and he believed the President would be able to sustain himself and friends, and that some adjustment would finally end the contest. The great desire of the President is to adhere to the Constitution as it now is in letter and spirit.  
In conclusion, Senator Parsons exhorted to patience and perseverance, the repression of imprudent and ill-timed speeches and expressions, justice to the freedmen under the laws, and kindness and forbearance towards them in their new relations. As a citizen of Alabama he was proud that her laws are right, but human laws are not self-executing, and the people owed it to themselves to see that they are always enforced. We should do our duty fearlessly and conscientiously. If our position be correct, no amount of traduction can make it false; and if it be wrong, no amount of assertion can make it true.

THE BLUE RIDGE RAILROAD.—It will be interesting to our readers to learn that there is a probability that that portion of the Road in Tennessee will be placed under contract in a short time. When the charter was obtained, the State of Tennessee subscribed \$10,000 per mile, with \$100,000 for the bridge at Knoxville; amounting, in the aggregate, to \$600,000. During the last session of the Legislature of Tennessee, \$300,000 was given by the State, in addition to her former subscription. Besides, Blount County also made a liberal subscription, which is now available.  
The authority is good for saying that operations will be commenced at Knoxville, at an early day, for the completion of the Road in Tennessee—a distance of fifty miles. And that it is confidently believed that the means will be obtained, ere long, to complete the whole Road.  
Pickens Courier.

A MILLION PERSONS STARVE TO DEATH.—A Calcutta correspondent of the London Times, December 7, gives some painful details of the recent famine in the district of Orissa, in India. A Government commissioner has prepared a report, of which it is said:  
A picture more heart-rending, facts more hideous, could not be given. The commissioner estimates the deaths in Orissa alone at 500,000 to 600,000. He adds that three-fourths of the population have been carried off. Orissa had 5,000,000. And the mortality of Midnapore, which was as severely visited; of Ganjam and Chota Nagpore, which were terribly, yet more mildly dealt with; of Calcutta, whose hospitals still tell so sad a tale, and of the other districts, where the sequelae, at least of starvation, carried off many, and remember that the deaths are still going on at the rate of 100 a day, and you will agree, with the rough estimate generally accepted here, that the number of victims will not be under 1,000,000.  
Long ago in Massachusetts, it was the custom for a person to go about the meeting houses during divine service and wake the sleepers. "He bore a long wand, on one end of which was a ball, and on the other a fox tail. When he observed the men asleep, he rapped them on the head with a knob, and roused the slumbering sensibilities of the ladies by drawing the brush lightly across their faces.  
CASTLE THUNDER.—Of this celebrated "institution," the Richmond Dispatch says:  
This famous old prison for Confederate deserters, etc., is rapidly being fitted up by Capt. John H. Greaner for the manufacture of tobacco—the same purpose for which it was used before the war. It is an immense building, and contains a large quantity of machinery and making other arrangements which will enable him, if necessary, to turn out 1,000 pounds manufactured tobacco per day. A walk over the old factory brings to mind many recollections of Confederate times. Here, in the fourth story is the gable window from which leaped the spy Webster, with his irons on; there the steps on which he was borne on his way to execution; there, on the lower floor, are the apartments of his wife and Dr. Mary Walker, and other females whose name became notorious during the war. The dungeons, which used to be tobacco sweat houses before the war, remain as they were left by the authorities, and one of them has a hole cut through the eighteen inch brick wall by some enterprising Confederate. Every part of the building has some incident connected with it. At this window, a prisoner was shot dead for putting his head out against orders; in this alley, a petty officer of the Confederate navy was instantly killed by the guard for fooling with him; and in that dark underground place, the prisoners used to tunnel themselves out into open air, or into a close dungeon if caught. Lying dismantled in a loft formerly used as a hospital is the old flag-staff from which floated the colors that were followed by so many brave men during the four long years and which now lies furled forever.

SENSIBLE.—The Augusta (Georgia) Constitutionalist very wisely discourages the Southern passion for emigration as follows:  
"To those who search abroad for the liberty, happiness or sustenance they deem impossible at home, we wish God-speed. For the industrious, hopeful and courageous, who prefer, or are compelled, to cling to their country, we have ineffable sympathy. Both have rugged paths to travel, and to both, we trust, a noble destiny will be given. We are asked in what respect can the prospect be more gloomy abroad than at home. Isolation, separation from friends, uncertainty, lack of sympathy—these are some arguments for the wanderer's reflection. Fanaticism cannot last forever. Reaction is bound to eventuate. The radical party perforce go the full length of anarchy, or die; and the end of anarchy is political death for the disturbers of public order."  
SOUTHERN RELIEF FAIR IN ST. LOUIS.—The treasurer of the late Southern Relief Fair at St. Louis, publishes a statement, from which it

appears that the total receipts of the grand fair amounted to \$1,186,756.66; expenses to \$10,648.58. Balance to be credited to the charity, \$1,176,108.08. Of this, \$124,743.63 was paid to the distributing committee, the remainder being applied to the relief of applicants, or sent in goods to the South.  
LARGE AND SMALL FARMS.—Large land holders will have to be divided into small farms. "We have asserted this before, and it is, as most men admit, only a question of time for fulfillment. While we do not hesitate to make declaration of an evitable fact, it is but fair to qualify what might otherwise seem too general an opinion. The division of large estates will not, of necessity, compel planters to turn market gardeners. On the contrary, we believe that planting on a large scale will and ought to be pursued by those who can afford it. Numbers, possessed of the requisite means and ability, will thus cultivate broad acres, but not in the same profusion as of yore. Superior energy and talent must accumulate landed property, just as the same qualifications gather merchandis or gold. But the number of these great proprietors cannot be so formidable as under the slave system. Labor-saving machines, such as steam or buggy, ploughs, reapers, threshers, etc., render immense estates still possible. It is well that they should not be wholly annihilated, for there are no better schools for enlarged ideas of state craft or private enterprise. Administrative ability of a high order is requisite. The common slang about "keeping a hotel," as evidencing peculiar traits of governing, apply with tenfold force to the management of a fine estate. Much of their eminence as the breeders of statesmen or politicians has sprung from these habits of the Southern

authority and engineer vast systems of labor. It is objected to the division of large plantations that this eminence may be surrendered. We think not. There will be a sufficient number of plantations to create a superabundance of statesmen, and it may be matter for congratulation that the supply is necessarily limited.—Thus, too, there may be just as much force of character necessary to regulate matters on a modest farm. We feel assured that poverty will compel the great body of Southern youth to manifest the noble qualities of courage, fortitude, patience and industry which, running in a different groove, made them splendid gentlemen and incomparable heroes. The South has much to learn, and she knows it. Experience may be a fool's teacher, but it frequently transforms folly into wisdom.—Constitutionalist.  
The oldest stove in the United States, if not in the world, is that which warms the hall of the capitol of Virginia, in Richmond. It was made in England, and sent to Virginia in 1777, and warmed the house of the Burgesses and the General Assembly for sixty years before it was removed to its present location, where it has been upwards of thirty years. It has survived three British Kings, and has been cotermporaneous with four monarchies, two republics and two imperial Governments of France. The great republic of America has been torn by civil war, the breaches partly healed, and still the old stove has remained unmoved in the midst of all.  
WOMAN'S PART IN THE WORLD.—It is the keeping alive for men certain ideas, and ideals, too, which would soon pass out of the world in the push and hurry of material existence, if they were not fed and replenished by those who are able to stand aloof from the worry and vexations of active life. When society ceases to have the means of creating its own ideas, it must decay. Civilization is nourished by imaginative wealth that the world possesses and renews for itself from time to time; and those treasures of imagination which we call ideas are mainly dependent on the social position occupied by women. Ideas of purity, unselfishness and devotion, in the words of the poet, are the hinges of the gate of life; and, if women were to become as men, the sacred fire would soon become extinct. The heathens of old fully expressed this truth by the image of the eternal flame of

Vesta, which it was the duty of her priestesses to maintain unimpaired, and on the preservation of which the welfare of Rome herself depended.  
COUNSEL FOR TALE-BEARERS.—Never repeat a story unless you are certain it is correct, and even not then unless something is to be gained, either of importance to yourself, or to the good of the person concerned. Telling is a mean and wicked practice, and he who indulges in it grows fonder of it in proportion as he is successful. If you have no good to say of your neighbor, never reproach his character by telling that which is false. He who tells you of the faults of others, intends to tell others of your faults, and so the dish of news is handed from one to another, until the tale becomes enormous. A story never loses anything, it is wisely remarked; but on the contrary, gains in proportion as it is repeated by those who have not a very strict regard for truth. Truly, "the tongue is an unruly member, full of deadly poison."  
Farmer.  
NOT TO BE TRUSTED.—A distinguished merchant, a great judge of character, once said, "When I see one of my apprentices or clerks riding out on the Sabbath, on Monday I dismiss him such a one cannot be trusted." Remember this boys, and from the habit of keeping the Sabbath, not only because God commands it—which indeed should be the chief reason—but also because it will be for your best temporal interest.  
BILL SIMPSON'S LEGAL EXPERIENCE.—Many years ago the Legislature of Tennessee passed an act to organize the county of McNairy, alias Snake. At that time the county embraced in the limits of Snake was occupied by a sturdy set of

courts, jails, etc. The county assembled at the appointed site for the purpose of cutting logs, making boards, etc., to build a court house and jail. The only theme of conversation, when the men were assembled, was the court, etc. None of them had ever seen a court in session, as yet developed. Each one would give what his idea was of a court, etc.  
None, however, were entirely satisfactory, until Bill Simpson was called on to give his ideas. He said he knew all about a court—that he had a law suit in North Carolina. One of his neighbor's hogs kept coming where he fed his hogs until it got fat. One morning he got so mad that he shot the hog. He thought it would not do to throw it away, so he cleaned and salted it. Shortly afterwards his neighbor and a man came to his house, examined the spoked house, and took him to town and put him in a little office. About three months after that, this man came and took him up to a large room. A large man sat upon a high bench—a man was sitting at a desk—about a dozen fine dressed men sat in a place that was paled around. The man put me in a pen just behind them.  
He then called in twelve men, they took seats in a box in front of the five dressed men. The man that was writing gave the twelve men a book and said something about Bill Simpson and State. Then one of the fine men read something about Bill Simpson and the hog, and he and another one of the fine dressed men had the biggest quarrel you ever heard—I thought they would fight every minute, but they didn't. It was Bill Simpson and the hog, and the hog and Bill Simpson; and sometimes Mr. Simpson, but seldom. After they quit quarreling, the big man talked a while to the twelve men, and they went out and said something to the man at the desk. The man on the bench said something to the man that put me in office, and he took me out and tied me to a persimmon tree and commenced fighting me with a cowhide, and it made me so mad that I shook all the persimmons off the tree.  
Winchester Home Journal.  
IN A HURRY.—A curious wedding is reported to have taken place some days since, near Bay City, Michigan, which reads like this: It seems that a father lost his wife by death, and that said wife died early in the morning. The father did not appreciate being left alone in the world, and ere his wife's eyes had closed in the sleep

that knows no waking, he determined to marry again. Hitching up his team, he takes his servant girl and goes to Bay City to buy garments for the death. While there, he married the girl, and returned to his home the same night with his second wife; so, by actual count, he was not a widower twelve hours. The new wife appeared at the funeral next day in deep black, and was one of the principal mourners over the body of the first wife.  
ANOTHER COTTON FIRE IN NEW YORK.—A disastrous fire occurred in the cotton warehouse No. 17, Albany street, New York, on Saturday evening, the building being completely burned out from the ground floor to the roof. There were fifteen hundred bales of cotton stored in the place at the time of the fire, which were totally consumed, causing a loss of about fifty thousand dollars. The building was owned by Mr. Charles Naylor, and was damaged to the extent of ten thousand dollars.  
A gentleman from Northern Ohio, always regarded as a splendid business manager tried a plantation in Mississippi this season, and reports that he is out of pocket about \$12,000 over his crop, and to use his own language has "let out." He says the "colored men may fight nobly, but they don't work worth a—bad word."  
MARYLAND.—The Lower House of the Maryland Legislature has passed the enfranchisement bill which restores to full rights of citizenship those who have been disfranchised for disloyalty or participation in the rebellion.  
A MENAGERIE OF TOPERS.—The following homily we give as we found it, leaving our sober fellow-citizens to warrant for the truth therein contained.  
man can get into is to get drunk. In drunkenness every man shows his strongest and most ardent passion.—There are six kinds of drunkards, and if you will go into a city drinking place where there are a dozen men under the influence of liquor, you will be sure to find these six different characters representing different animals.  
The first is ape-drunk. He leaps, and sings, and yells, and dances, making all sorts of grimaces and cutting up all sorts of "monkey shins" to excite the laughter of his fellows.—Terribly silly is the drunken clown.  
The second is tiger-drunk. He breaks the bottles, breaks the chairs, breaks the heads of his fellow-carousers, and is full of blood and thunder. His eyes are fired with vengeance, and his soul raves with fury. Of this sort are those who abuse their families.  
The third is hog drunk. He rolls in the dirt, on the floor, slobbers and grunts, and going into the streets makes his bed in the first ditch or filthy corner he may happen to fall into. He is heavy, lumpy and sleepy, and cries in a grunting way for a little more to drink.  
The fourth is puppy drunk. He will weep for kindness, and whine his love, and hug you in his arms, and kiss you with his slobbery lips and proclaim how much he loves you.—You are the best man he ever saw, and he will lay down his money or his life for you.  
The fifth is owl drunk. He is wise in his own conceit. No man must differ with him; for his word is law. He is true in politics, and all matter must be taken as authority. His arm is the strongest, his voice the sweetest, his horse the fleetest, his turnips the largest, his town the finest of all in the room or land.  
The sixth and last animal in the menagerie is the fox drunk man. He is crafty, ready to trade horses and cheat if he can. Keen to strike a bargain, leering around with low cunning, peeping through cracks, listening under the caves, watching for some suspicious thing, sly as a fox, creaking as a wolf. He is the meanest drunkard of them all.  
THROUGH FREIGHT.—A train of cars came through on the Virginia and Tennessee airline on Saturday, carrying six hundred and fifty bales of Cotton. It went through to Norfolk. We learn that there are sixteen thousand bales at Knoxville, which have been received for, and are now waiting for transportation over this line.  
Petersburg Index.